

Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1-7, 9, 13-33, and 35-40 are pending with claims 1, 17, 26, and 37 being the independent claims. Claims 1-7, 9, 13-28, 30-33, and 35-39 are sought to be amended. Claims 8, 10-12, 34, and 41-53 are sought to be canceled without disclaimer of or prejudice to the subject matter therein. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 3-15, 18, 21, and 27-34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Specifically, the Office Action alleges that there is insufficient antecedent basis for the limitation "another header" in the claim. (Office Action, p. 2). Claim 3 has been amended to recite "a manufacturer header" instead of "another header" and the dependency of claim 3 has been changed from claim 1 to claim 2.

The Office Action states that the "recitation of '... a Broadcom Ethernet type ...'" lacks a defined and customary meaning to those ordinary skill in the art, thereby

rendering the scope of these claims [claims 5, 9, 18, and 30] indeterminate.

Additionally, the usage of the trademark 'Broadcom' renders the scope of these claims uncertain since a trademark or trade name cannot be used properly to identify any particular material or product." (Office Action, p. 2). Claims 5, 9, 18, and 30 have been amended to delete the term "Broadcom." Claims 5, 9, 18, and 30 now recite "a user-specific Ethernet type field." Support for this amendment can be found in paragraph [0060] of the publication of the current application (U.S. Publication No. 2004/0139313).

The Office Action further rejects claims 27 and 28 because the "respective limitations 'wherein the generating step ...' fail to particularly point out which generating step of claim 26 is being referenced." (Office Action, p. 3). Claims 27 and 28 have been amended to recite "wherein the generating a second Ethernet packet."

Claim 21 has been amended as suggested by the Examiner. Claim 34 has been canceled by the above amendment.

Based on the foregoing, amended claims 3, 5, 9, 18, 21, 27, 28, and 30 and their corresponding dependent claims are definite. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are therefore respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Bryers and Cassidy

Claims 1-4, 16, 17, 22-29, 31, and 35-53 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bryers, *et al*, U.S. Patent Publication 2003/0126233 (Bryers) in view of Cassidy, "An Ethernet Primer" (Cassidy). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

The combination of Bryers and Cassidy does not teach or suggest each and every feature of amended independent claims 1, 17, 26, and 37. Bryers describes communication between a flow stage module and an IPSec stage module in a content service aggregation system. (Bryers, ¶ [0198]). The flow stage provides a handle for the packet to the IPSec stage module. (Bryers, ¶ [0198]). The IPSec module uses the handle provided by the flow stage module to find the security association for the packet. Bryers does not teach or suggest that the flow stage module generates an Ethernet packet having the handle or that the IPSec receives an Ethernet packet having the handle from the flow stage module.

Thus, Bryers does not teach or suggest "receiving in a security processor a first Ethernet packet comprising a second Ethernet packet and a memory address associated with a security association," as recited in amended independent claim 1. Bryers also does not teach or suggest a method of or security processor for "generating encrypted packets by processing a first Ethernet packet comprising a second Ethernet packet and a memory address associated with a security association ... comprising ... extracting the memory address from the first Ethernet packet," as recited in amended independent claims 17 and 37. Bryers further does not teach or suggest "generating a first Ethernet packet ... generating a second Ethernet packet encapsulating the memory address and the at least one first Ethernet packet," as recited in amended independent claim 26.

Cassidy does not overcome these deficiencies of Bryers. Accordingly, amended independent claims 1, 17, 26, and 37 are patentable over the combination of Bryers and Cassidy. Claims 3, 4, and 16 depend from claim 1; claims 22-25 depend from claim 17; claim 28, 29, 31, 35, and 36 depend from claim 26; and claims 38-40 depend from claim

37. For at least the above reasons, and further in view of their own features, dependent claims 3, 4, 16, 22-25, 28, 29, 31, 35, 36, and 38-40 are also patentable over the combination of Bryers and Cassidy. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are therefore respectfully requested.

Bryers, Cassidy, and Stevens

Claims 5-15, 18-21, 30, and 32-34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Bryers and Cassidy in view of Stevens, "TCP/IP Illustrated" (Stevens). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claims 5-7, 9, and 13-15 depend from claim 1; claims 18-21 depend from claim 17; and claims 30 and 32-33 depend from claim 26. Claims 8, 10-12, and 34 were canceled by the above amendment. Stevens does not overcome the deficiencies of Bryers and Cassidy relative to amended independent claims 1, 17, and 26 described above. For at least these reasons, and further in view of their own features, dependent claims 5-7, 9, 13-15, 18-21, 30, 32, and 33 are patentable over the combination of Bryers, Cassidy, and Stevens. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are therefore respectfully requested.

Conclusion

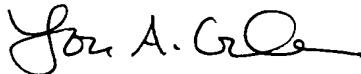
All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for

allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.


Lori A. Gordon
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 50,633

Date: January 3, 2008

1100 New York Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005-3934
(202) 371-2600

764099_1.DOC